

Remarks/Arguments

The claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-12 and 14-16. Claim 5, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, has been re-written in independent form by amending claim 1 to substantially incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 1 also includes the subject matter of claim 4 except for the recitation that the carrier is "cross-shaped" (which also appeared in claim 5), and claim 4 has been amended in view of the amendment to claim 1.

In addition, claim 5, 7, 9 and 13, which the Examiner also indicated contained allowable subject matter, have been re-written in independent form substantially as new claims 14, 15 and 16, respectively. Accordingly, claims 7, 9 and 13 have been cancelled, and claims 10 and 11, which previously depended on claim 9, have been amended to depend on new claim 15. Like claim 1 as amended, new claim 15 contains subject matter previously appearing in claim 4 except for the recitation that the carrier is "cross-shaped" (which also appeared in claim 9). Dependent claim 11 has also been amended to remove the recitation that the carrier is "cross-shaped". Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-12 have also

been amended to improve their form or to delete reference numerals.

Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-13 were objected to because of certain informalities set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 10-12 to correct these informalities as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-4, 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Cunningham et al U.S. Patent No. 6,039,104*. Claims 1-3 and 6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *du Quesne U.S. Patent No. 4,750,538*. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claims 5, 7, 9-11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to substantially incorporate the

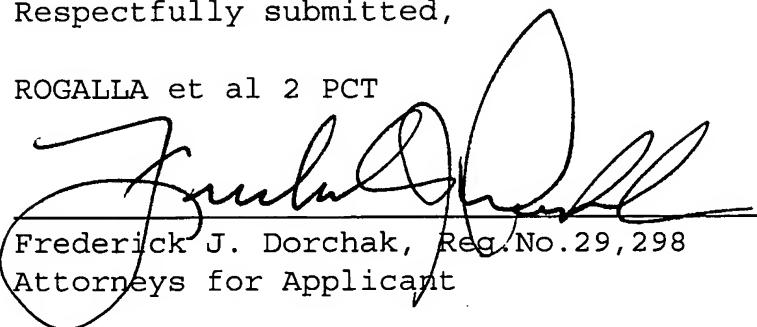
subject matter of claim 5 (including claim 4), have re-written claim 7 in independent form as new claim 14, have re-written claim 9 in independent form substantially as new claim 15 (including claim 4), have re-written claim 13 in independent form as new claim 16, have amended claims 10 and 11 to depend on new claim 15, and have cancelled claims 5, 7, 9 and 13 so that all dependent claims depend directly or indirectly on either claim 1 as amended or new claim 15. Although amended claim 1 and new claim 15 do not recite that the carrier is "cross-shaped," it is believed that these claims are nonetheless patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-12 have been amended, claims 5, 7, 9 and 13 have been cancelled, and new claims 14 to 16 have been added.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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